Insurance scheme for cancer care

3773. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 7 lakhs cancer cases are detected every year in the country;

(b) if so, what are the steps Government are taking for the cure of these patients;

(c) whether Government are planning to launch any special insurance scheme for the coverage of this disease like other diseases; and

(d) if so, how much time it will take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKHSMI): (a) As per the information collected by the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year.

(b) The treatment of cancer is done by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. The supportive and palliative care is provided by medical doctors for alleviation of pain, swelling, bleeding etc. These facilities are available in Government hospitals including medical colleges and district hospitals across the country. The palliative care is also being provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) recognized by this Ministry besides secondary and tertiary health care institutions. The treatment in Government Medical Hospitals and Regional Cancer Centres is either free or highly subsidized.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Essential drugs concept for price control

†3774. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the concept of essential drugs for controlling the prices of drugs is in place and names of drugs it covers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for not applying the same concept to the substitute drugs, similar to essential ones used in treatment of a particular disease;

(c) whether there is any scientific basis for drug declared as essential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKHSMI): (a) and (b) Price Control orders in respect of drugs were issued in 1963, 1966 and 1968 under the Defence of India Act. After the enactment of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955) and with 'drugs' having been declared as an Essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, the Drugs (Price Control) Orders are being promulgated from time to time since 1970, under Section 3 of the EC Act. Presently the Drugs (Price Control) Order, (DPCO) 1985 is in force.

Currently Drugs are placed under price control based on the criteria mentioned in 'Modification in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

The Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals has also drafted a new Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 wherein the concept of keeping the National List of Essential Medicine, 2003 under price control has been envisaged.

(c) and (d) The National List of Essential Medicines is formulated keeping in view the methodology adopted by WHO. The criteria considered suitable for identifying medicines in the list included consideration of disease burden; information on the efficacy, safety and comparative cost effectiveness of drugs, preferences for single compounds, cost of treatment (and not merely unit cost of medicines); and available health delivery infrastructure.

AIDS testing centres across the country

3775. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National AIDS Control Organization has decided to open more testing centres across the country;